



## **Week 9: Studying the Bible Prayerfully & Obediently**

**MV:** *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it--not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it--they will be blessed in what they do."* (James 1:22-25)

Some see the Bible as a rule book or text book to give them direction for how to live their lives.

Some see the stories and characters as inspiration or a model for Godly living.

Some use a mystical approach. It is spiritual encouragement or guidance to help you through the day.

And others approach the Bible academically—what does the writer mean to say to the audience.

**When we read the Bible, we are hearing God's heart, God's voice.**

### **Read the Bible devotionally**

- Devotionally means "devoted to them";
- Have you ever though to simply enjoy reading the Bible?
- Ps 119 uses the word "delight" over and over about the scriptures
- We need to let the Bible saturate our minds, hearts, and lifestyles
- We talk about praying AND reading the Bible but do we pray WHILE reading the Bible?

*"However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"-- the things God has prepared for those who love him-- 10 these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ... 12 What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. 14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit." (1 Cor 2:9-10, 12-14)*

- You cannot understand the Bible w/o the Holy Spirit's help
- WE cannot understand spiritual truths apart from the Spirit of God
- The only way we can understand the mind of God is through the Spirit of God

### **Read with Obedience**

We need the Spirit to make our lives align with the truths we are studying

Too many of us read the Bible to gain knowledge as if that's our mission

Knowledge enables us to love God and love others more fully

Learn all you can but immediately apply it.

### **Read with Faith**

Every promise in the Bible is backed by a person—God!

A promise is only as trustworthy as the person making the promise

We read the Bible but we don't act as if we believe

We need to read the Bible with absolute faith

*"In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will," (Eph 1:11)*

*"For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live." (Rom 8:13)*

### **Read with Transformation**

Good Bible study leads to personal/life transformation

Remember Heb. 4:12? The Bible sees us; it acts; it reads us.

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True religion isn't about what you know. It's about putting what you know about God and His word into practice.